

# MSC Guidelines for Review of Aluminum/GRP plate use

## Plan Review Guidance #: SOLAS-33

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**Effective Date** 11/15/2002

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**Regulations**

- ☐ SOLAS 2001 Cite: II-2/13.4.1
- ☐ SOLAS 1974 Cite: II-2/28.3.1

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**Disclaimer**

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**Contact Information**

If you have any questions or comments concerning this document, please contact the Marine Safety Center by e-mail or phone. Please refer to the Plan Review Guidance #: SOLAS-33.

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**Regulation Text**

“Means of escape from each machinery space in passenger ships shall comply with the following provisions...”

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**Guidance**

Aluminum or GRP floor plates, grids, or walkways are not acceptable for use in escape routes.

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**Background**

While not generally an issue in most accommodation areas, aluminum plates or grating can sometimes be found in machinery or other service spaces. The concern is twofold; first, that aluminum melts at temperatures typically found in most fires and, secondly, that aluminum does not appear to change its visual properties as it reaches its melting point. Thus, aluminum deck plates will not give any visual indication that they have completely lost their strength due to high heat, and could fail under the weight of an unsuspecting crewmember or firefighter.